

September 19, 2006

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Gloria Lowe. Hopefully, you will listen to the concerns that I have with HB 6430.

Legislators continue to treat everyone on the list as "violent predators", making laws to include ALL, no matter what the offense; now with HB 6430, it would only be adding to the injustices. Federal statistics show the recidivism rate to be 5.7%, and 94.3% of new offenses are committed by new offenders, yet Michigan is punishing all 100%. The majority of offenders are adhering to their stipulations trying to live somewhat normal lives (which is very difficult with ALL their personal information displayed to the nation, making them very vulnerable to abuse) while the violent criminal ignores all obligations and continues to do evil. This is definitely destroying more young lives than it's saving.

My granddaughter is on the Sex Offender Registry for having consensual sex at age 19 with a 15 year old male, and served 2-½ years in prison for that very BAD choice; NOT a violent or predatory action. She is now attending U of D/Mercy, being inducted into the Honors Program October 1st. She testified, along with several others having similar circumstances, in front of a Sub-Committee of this Body in March with the hope that the structural flaws of the Registry would be repaired. I do not see this being taken into consideration. My heart breaks for all these young adults.

At your hearing on September 13th, one of the Committee Members made a statement referring to the Selepak legislation, "that ALL are lumped together". That is exactly what has happened to the Sex Offender Registry. I was always taught that circumstances alter cases but that is not true when it comes to the SOR.

I believe that the website "My Space" has proven to be a very effective tool in recent months with the arrest of several pedophiles, including a government official.

What if a college student needs to access a social networking website for research? College students use the "Face Book" website all the time to communicate with their friends and classmates.

The government can not protect all the children.....parents have the responsibility to teach their children of the dangers that lurk in the world. I think that it would be wise for parents to restrict the computer from underage children's use. Computers do come equipped with a key.

How in the world will this new legislation be able to monitor over one million users and PREVENT abuse? What a false sense of security.

The greater concern for society-at-large, in my opinion, would be not to create MORE confusing, and difficult-to-enforce laws, but concentrate on the "REAL PREDATORS" and strive to enforce the laws that are currently on the books.

I urge the Committee to vote "NO" on this bill.

Thank you so much for your time.

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